

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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FOR DALE FROM MOREY

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ILO, AORG

SUBJECT: ILO - NOMINATION OF AMERICAN AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR
GENERAL

1. RE DESIRE OF ILO DG BLANCHARD TO HAVE PANELS OF CANDI-
DATES PRESENTED BY GOVERNMENTS SEEKING DIRECTORATE POSTS
FOR THEIR NATIONALS, THERE IS A DIVISION OF OPINION AMONG
INTERESTED WASHINGTON AGENCIES AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE US
SHOULD GO ALONG WITH THIS. IN MOST CASES, USG SUBMITS
ONLY ONE NAME WHEN SEEKING TO FILL A HIGH POSITION IN THE
UN FAMILY; NEVERTHELESS, THERE HAS BEEN MUCH SUPPORT HERE
FOR BLANCHARD'S DESIRE TO HAVE SOME FREEDOM OF CHOICE IN
SELECTING HIS SENIOR DEPUTY.

2. AFL-CIO, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN ADAMANT IN OPPOSING PANEL
PROCEDURE, AND INSISTS THAT ONLY ONE NAME SHOULD BE SUB-
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MITTED BY USG. PRESIDENT MEANY HAS STATED THIS EMPHATICALLY

ON TWO OCCASIONS TO DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, AND HE RECONFIRMED THIS AS AN AFL-CIO POSITION IN HIS LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 12 TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

3. IT WOULD MAKE NO REAL SENSE TO NOMINATE AMERICAN CANDIDATES FOR DDG IN THE ILO WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE AFL-CIO. BLANCHARD WANTS AN AMERICAN DEPUTY NOT ONLY BECAUSE HE BELIEVES THE US IS THE BEST SOURCE OF THE MANAGERIAL TALENT HE SEEKS, BUT ALSO TO IMPROVE HIS

RELATIONS WITH THE TRIPARTITE ELEMENTS OF THE US-ILO TEAM. IN LIGHT OF PAST FOUR AND ONE-HALF YEARS OF HISTORY OF US-ILO RELATIONS, IT WOULD SERVE NEITHER BLANCHARD'S INTERESTS NOR THOSE OF THE US TO APPOINT AN AMERICAN DDG UNDER CONDITIONS THAT COULD DEPRIVE THE APPOINTEE OF THE SUPPORT OF THE AFL-CIO.

4. DEPARTMENT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THIS MATTER HAS NOT BEEN MOVED WITH IDEAL RAPIDITY, AND IS AWARE OF PRESSURES ON BLANCHARD TO START FILLING THE GAPS IN THE RANKS OF HIS DIRECTORATE. WE BELIEVE THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING HIM A QUALIFIED AMERICAN DEPUTY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OUTWEIGHS THE FORMAL QUESTION OF THE PROCEDURE BY WHICH THIS IS DONE. IF WE WANT TO MOVE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE AND TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE AFL-CIO, WE MUST TRANSMIT ONLY ONE NAME TO BLANCHARD.

5. DEPARTMENT, THEREFORE, HAS DECIDED THAT ONLY ONE NAME WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR THE "AMERICAN DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL" SLOT, AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE SO INFORMED MR. MEANY BY HIS LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 27. THE SECRETARY FURTHER INFORMED MR. MEANY THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD INSTRUCT YOU TO CONVEY OUR POSITION TO BLANCHARD.

6. WE WISH TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR BLANCHARD TO SHIFT HIS POSITION GRACEFULLY, AND WE WONDER IF THE ACTIONS OF THE US TEAM IN SCREENING APPLICANTS MIGHT NOT SATISFY PART OF BLANCHARD'S INTEREST IN HAVING A PANEL. COMMERCE, LABOR, STATE, AFL-CIO AND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF US HAVE SCREENED 12 APPLICANTS, AND, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SITTING AS A PANEL HAVE INTERVIEWED 8 WITH A MAJORITY FURTHER NARROWING THE FIELD TO FOUR OR FIVE. SCREENING AND INTERVIEWS FOCUSED ENTIRELY ON SUITABILITY OF CANDIDATES IN TERMS OF THEIR MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE AND PROBABLE ADAPTABILITY TO ILO AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WORK. WHILE REVIEW GROUP COULD NOT AGREE ON SINGLE BEST QUALIFIED CANDIDATE, THE SELECTION OF THE NOMINEE WILL BE MADE FROM AMONG THOSE RANKED HIGHEST

BY THE GROUP. IT MAY BE THAT, BEING AWARE OF THIS
PROCEDURE AND THE BASIS ON WHICH THE CANDIDATES WERE
EVALUATED, BLANCHARD WOULD BE LESS UNWILLING TO ACCEPT
A SINGLE NOMINEE FROM AMONG THOSE SUPPORTED BY THIS
REVIEW GROUP.

7. AMBASSADOR SHOULD DISCUSS ABOVE WITH BLANCHARD, AND
REPORT HIS REACTIONS. YOU SHOULD SUGGEST THAT IT MAY BE
USEFUL FOR HIM TO DISCUSS THIS QUESTION WHEN HE VISITS
WASHINGTON. KISSINGER

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